## THE NEW YORK PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals Upon the Most Important Topics of the Hour.

COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR EVENING TELEGRAPH.

## The Cattle Plague.

From the Tribune. Our last accounts of the cattle plague in England show that up to the 3d of March, during the six months in which the epidemic has so tar prevailed, 197,059 cattle have been infected, of which 117,654 have died directly from the disease, and 26,135 have been killed by way of preventing its spread. But this statement is only the inspector's report, and does not pretend to give the whole number of cattle which have per. ished since the beginning of the pest in the latter days of August. A partial plague of the same character broke out also among the sheep some months ago; but we are not distinctly informed of the extent of its ravages. It appears that the general epidemic had increased steadily up to the latest mail from England, every step of its march becoming more alarming. The number of deaths, which averaged a thousand or more per week in September, increased from 1700 to 2000 in October. Up to November, 17,673 animals had been attacked. of which only 848 could recover or would be allowed to recover.

By the middle of November, 20,000, or, at was stated, one in a thousand had perished; and up to December, 40,000 had caught the disease. By the lst of January the number reached 73,549: 7683 dying in one week; and in the last week of January, 9243. By the middle of January, 107,098 had been attacked, only 15,527 remaining under treatment. The February papers picture the plague as positively awful in the country, and by the middle of the month, 150,000 cattle had become infected, and all but 40,000 had died. At this writing, the number of victims cannot tall short of 200,000, fivesixths of which have perished absolutely. These are only the Cattle Inspector's figures, while it is possible that the entire live killed by the plague is much nearer to 300,000, We can have no idea of the number of beeves prematurely killed and sold at from one to two shillings per pound by the butchers, in order to save both meat and money. But from all these facts, it is plain, in the gravest sense, that our neighbor, John Bull, has been rapidly

Several opinions have been current in England as to the origin of the pestilence. Some of the country farmers satisfied themselves in tracing it back to the cow-keepers of the metropolitan districts (a class more or less kindred with our own metropolitan swill-milk makers), and there stopped inquiry. That the disease was imported from Russia, and communicated from the large centres, is, however, the more accepted belief. It is remarked that in Russia animals are in general treated with greater hardship and discomfort than in any other part of Europe. But we have no doubt that in the crowded cattlemarkets of England there was every condition to invite the disease. London periodicals have related, from time to time, those mysteries of atrocity which, in the conveying, driving, and killing of fevered and exhausted flesh, make up a part of the popular beet supply of London.

The fact seems consequent and obvious-a timely warning, too, against the dangers of our slaughter-house system-that in all the earlier stages of the plague the greatest ravages occurred in the metropolitan districts. We are a believer in that trite, patent maxim which declares that there is no reason whatever for epidemic in nature; but if cholera breaks out among men who are packed and penned together in artificial pest-holes, no wonder, then, that the plague will at last infect the brutes which, in a hundred nameless ways, undergo untold miseries that the barbarous indifferentism of civilization cannot afford to inflict directly upon itself. The wretched contact of huddling, driving, and stifling crowds of insane and distempered animals, is conserved to give a taste to our common beef. It would not surprise us to hear that all the unnecessary torture which beet undergoes before it is eaten reacts, in some measure, upon the eater. Inspectors of meat and milk have only a superficial office. Laws against cruelty to animals, and societies for its detection and prevenuon, are urgently needed.

As yet no decided measures have been taken

in England to check or stay the epidemic. Professor Gamgee, it appears, predicted its wide spread from the start, unless an immediate resort was had to the pole-ax, the favorite Dutch and Prussian mode of extirpation; but this apparently cruel and costly, but now (it seems) necessary method, has not, till of late, gained the mind of the authorities. The Professor further argued that, as the disease proceeds from contact, the transportation of cattle in large numbers should be at once stopped on all the large railways, and that cattle sales and beet shows should be suspended in the market towns—an advice followed in part by local communities, which have even gone so far as to close the ordinary live-meat markets for months, giving wide room to the vegetarian doctrine, and a text and sway of which it had not dreamed. But it was not till about a month ago that the suggestions of Protessor Gamgee and others took shape in a bill presented in Parliament by Sir John Grey.

One feature of this bill, providing for the com-pensation of cattle-owners by the collection of land-rates, gave rise to a debate in which Bright and Mill took part against the stubborn defenders of that oppressive privilege and curse of the English economy, the law of primogeniture, The aristocracy, who are mainly the land-owners, and can rent their lands at artificial prices, propose, in short, to lay the added expense of the plague principally on the impoverished farming classes of lessees, who are the greatest losers by the calamity, and whom, too irequently, its ravages have cut short of ability to pay their year's rent. Now, it is vigorously insisted that the land monopolists or nobility should take their due, proportionate land-share of the burden which threatens to fall so heavily on the farmer; and thus the cattle-plague, lasts long enough, promises to assail with some effect the enormous immunity of hereditary ten-

ure in England. All methods of treating the plague have thus iar proved ineffectual, except in a few cases. Allopathy and homoopathy have been explored in vain for a curative. Vaccination, after a thorough trial, has failed. In Holland, where the pest is also at its height, a number of cattle, it is said, have been cured at a very early period of the disease by the well-known hydropathic practice of rubbing and wet-packing. A German grazier is reported to have applied petro-leum to the skin and food of the animal with preventive success. Finally, an American doctor undertakes to show that the disease is caused by parasites growing on the skin, and can be cked by a washing of corrosive sublimate. This theory, which appears wide apart from the experience of English doctors, would link the cattle-plague with the triching disease now destroying the pork-eaters of certain parts of Germany; but no conclusive sign of the worm has yet been found in beef.

According to Mr. Townsend Glover, who wrote in November last from Europe, the disease is not at all unlike that which was so alarmingly epidemic in Florida some years ago, where cattle were stricken down, after a short suffering, in apparently "good condition," till a post mortem examination proved the contrary. It may be as well to assure ourselves that our own cattle are

not exempt in a given contingency, while the rinderpest remains a problem and a plagve.

Another date from England assures us that newfigures are added to the sum of disasters, in the violent breaking out of the plague among sheep. The murrain has now become a more national alarm than even the epidemic of Fenianism; and it remains to be seen what effect the former will have upon the English landlord

The Fisheries - A Dangerous Question. From the Times.

The other day a telegraphic item informed us of the fitting out of national versels to protect the interests of American Sshermen on the coasts of British North America. A contemporary enumerates seven vessels, carrying eighty six guns, as in course of preparation for service in this "flying squadron."

Now, we have tidings from England, on the authority of the London Times, which indicate the approaching departure of a war vessel "to. see that the rights of the fishery, which revert to the British Crown, are not infringed upon, and also to prevent collisions between the fishermen of the Provinces and those of the United States. The vessel to be thus specially detailed will be an addition to the powerful force already representing England in those waters.

These preparations on both sides may enable

some who have pool-pooled the termination of reciprocity as a triffing sflair, to realize at least one of the embarrassing and perilous questions which that event revives. They show that the contingencies which were a continual source of apprehension up to the period of the treaty are about again to arise, to irritate and perplex both countries; and further, that both countries are adopting measures identical with those which before the treaty kept the fishing interests of New England and the Provinces perpetually under an apprehension of hostilities.

A reference to the treaty, now defunct, is of itself sufficient to prove the importance with which the question was regarded by contract-The essential provisions treaty were embraced in four articles, and of these two pertain exclusively to the fishies-a circumstance of which the Congres sional opponents of reciprocity appear to be protoundly ignorant. Their speeches in the recent debates proceeded wholly on the as-sumption that the interchange of commodities constituted the beginning and the end of the arrangement between this country and the Provinces; overlooking the undoubted fact, that by reciprocity we secured for our fishermen important concessions, and averted hability to international complications which in past years the records of the State Department have borne ample testimony.

Into the merits of the controversy as to the intent and meaning of the Convention of 1818, we are not required to enter. For our present purpose, it is enough to know that by the construction which the British Government, in compliance with the solicitation of the maritime provinces, finally undertook to enforce, results were produced which Mr. Webster, as Secretary of State, in 1852, thus succincily stated:-"The loss of the valuable fall fishing to American fishermen; a complete interruption of the extensive tishing business of New England, attended by constant collisions of the most unpleasant and exciting character," entailing "the involvement of the Government in questions of a very serious nature, threatening the peace of the two countries." The report of Mr. Lorenzo Sabine, presented to Congress in 1853, circumstantially exhibits the details of the difficulties which Mr Webster had anticipated. Referring to the season of 1852, and the effect of the restriction enforced by British ves els-of-war, Mr. Sabine wrote: The results to our countrymen were disastrous to a degree never before known in time of peace. The presence of her Maiesty's cruisers in the waters in dispute between the two Governments nearly ruined some and injured all who adventured thither, and was the occasion of despondency and suffering at many firesides in Massachusetts and elsewhere in New England. A remark with which Mr. Sabine accompanies this recital of facts possesses particular signifi-cance at this moment. "There can be no change for the better," are his words, "while the con-troversy as to the intent and meaning of the Convention of 1818 snall continue."

The controversy was, however, superseded and its attendant peril turned aside, by the Reciprocity Treaty, under the operation of which our fishermen have for ten years plied their vocation, peacefully and profitably, in Provincial waters.

The abrogation of the treaty, and the refusal of Congress to sanction a new arrangement with the Provinces, bring back the controversy which, as Mr. Sabine has shown, was disastrous to New England interests, and lay the foundation of fresh issues, involving what Mr. Webster described as "questions of a very serious nature. threatening the peace of the two countries Mr. Derby, in his report to Mr. Secretary Mc-Culloch, affirms that "we must either risk our mackeral fishery, treat, or annex the Provinces." With reciprocity, we have lost our mackeral fishery, and there will be hardship and suffering in the coming season among a class never addicted to over-much patience, and not likely now to submit quietly to the authority of British vessels-of-war. Are the wise men of Congress prepared for the emergency ? Are they willing to entail disaster upon the fishermen and danger upon the country to satisfy the demands of the coal and iron mono polists of Pennsylvania? Or will they "treat" or a new commercial arrangement, which shall at once benefit the revenue, prevent injury to our trade, secure to our fishermen a continuance of valuable privileges, and dissipate the speck of war now rising out of northern waters?

There is yet time for negotiation, pending the completion of which all necessary points may be provided for by temporary legislation. Meanwhile we have a right to ask that our British cousins shall abstain from pushing pretensions in the justice of which this country has never acquiesced. We believe that the more intelligent section of Congress is ready to enter upon the whole question, with the view of reaching results that shall be mutually advan-The feeling in the Treasury Depart ment is known to be in favor of this course, and it will assuredly gain ground whenever the varied bearings of the question shall be dis-It is essential, however, that there, be nothing like menace on the other side. We are for negotiation and legislation on a liberal friendly basis, the feasibility of which depends upon the avoidance of all causes of irritation and all ground of quarrel.

President Johnson's Appeal to the People From the Herald.

The issue between the President and his opponents is now broadly and clearly defined. There can be no mistaking it, no evading it, no explaining it away. In his first veto message, and in his grand speech on the 22d of February, President Johnson boldly drew the line between himself and the radicals; but they have since been endeavoring to obliterate these utterances from the minds of the people. For this purpose Thad. Stevens insulted the House and gave the world the lowest possible estimate of the intelligence of his constituents by declaring that the President's speech was only a hoax. For this purpose Senator Sherman went down to Connecticut and tried to delude the voters by arguing that the differences be-tween the President and Congress were imma-terial. For this purpose the editors of the radi-cal journals have filled their columns, day after day, with bogus reports as to what the President had said to this radical Senator or to the other radical delegate. For this purpose the violent abuse of the President by the Radicals has been temporarily abandoned, and some of them have even schooled themselves to speak of him respectfully. And for this purpose Horace Maynard, one of the excluded Congressmen from the President's own State, has been sent around the country to tell the people that the Union is restored, and that all the rights of the South are restored also. This second veto message dispels the illusions which these politicians have been endeavoring to create. It reminds us that eleven States are still out of the Union. It points us to the danger of a mongrel republic. It is the President's appeal to the people against the politicians, and by the people he will be

sustained. The first veto message of President Johnson convinced the leading men of Europe that he is a great statesman. His speech on the 22d of February has been universally accepted as a masterpiece which no prince born to the purple

could possibly have equalled. This second veto message will add to his popularity here, and will increase the respect entertained for him abroad. Its clear, calm, conclusive analysis of the Civil Rights bill, its scathing exposure of the faults and defects of the measure, and its eloquent statement of the policy which the President has deliberately adopted, and to which heimtends to adhere, are such as would make the reputa-tion of any other official; but they can only strengthen the reputation of President John strengthen the repulation of President Johnson. Some Congressmen who profess to be his friends had voted for this bill; some of his supporters, who had not examined the subject with sufficient attention, presumed and predicted that he would give the bill his signature; but, with a keener insight and a more infallible sagacity, Mr. Johnson at once detected the danger of this special legislation and the cylls with which this measure was raught. With the indomitable pluck which traught. With the indomitable pluck which Americans so much admire, and which we have seen incarnated in a Jackson, a Grant, a Sher man, and a Sheridan, the President substituted veto for his signature and sent the bill back to the Senate, where it originated. What the Senators may do with it is of no consequence. Two or three of them may be ill and the veto may be disregarded, or by a very close vote it may be indorsed. In either case the position of the President will not be affected. He looks beyond Congress; he appeals to the people, and by the people he will be almost unanimously The veto message shows irrefutably that the

radicals design to make this a mongrel Government. It has unmasked them; they can no longer maintain their hypocritical pretense of philanthropy. They hope and expect to confer the right of suffrage upon the negroes; to elect negro members of Congress from the Southern States; to make negroes eligible for the highest offices in the land. The political equality of the blacks thus conceded, how can their social equality be denied? They must be permitted to propose marriage to our daughters; to sit at table with white persons; to mingle familiarly in the best society. For the sake of three million of negroes forty milhons sake of three million of negroes torty milhons of white people have already been involved in civil war; half of a great nation has been crippled and desolated; a heavy debt has been placed upon the shoulders of our citizens; blood has been poured out like water; precious lives have been ruthlessly sacrificed; but all this is not enough. Now, for the sake of three millions of negroes, the white people of this country are asked to submit to the abrogathis country are asked to submit to the abrogation of the Constitution; to the exclusion of eleven States from the Union; to the supersedure of the State judiciary; to the petty tyranny of irresponsible spics, paid to prefer complaints, whether justly or unjustly. More than this: we are asked to give the semi-civilized negro a preference over the intelligent immigrant who lands upon our shores; to punish a parent who refuses to allow a negro to marry his child; to cast into prison any judge who decides the cicta of Congress unconstitu-tional; to submit to a social association per-fectly revolting to all sensible persons, and to a national future like that of Mexico or of the mongrel south American republics. This is what the radicals demand, and all this they have embodied in the Civil Rights bill, which ought to be called a bill to deprive white men of all rights. The President has placed this measure in its true light before the country. In doing so he has again broken all party trammels and exhibited a patriotism that can rise superior to all partisan pleas of expediency. An entire reconstruction of the politics of the United States will be the result. All who are in favor of assassinating the republic in order to make the negro equal to the whites will take sides with Congress. All who are in favor of the Union, governed by white men for the benefit of the people, will take sides with the President. The issue is made; the President appeals directly to his tellow-citizens, and, one after another

Cotton Seizures and the Treasury Agent System. From the World.

States will wheel into line in his support.

eginning with Connecticut next Monday-the

Under the act of Congress authorizing seizures of "abandoned and captured" property, the United States Treasury agents have, during and since the war, been seizing large quantities of all kinds of property, but especially of cotton. Northern men, and other parties not living at the South, own or are interested in much of this cotton. It becomes a matter of general interest to know on what legal footing these seizures by Treasury agents rest.

There were grave doubts at the time of the

There were grave doubts at the time of the passage of the act, on the part of many persons of some respectability, both as to its legality and its expediency. The act seemed to most men to be limited in its action to the period of actual hostilities. But hostilities have long since ceased. Not, however, cotton seizures. A kind of kleptomania has come over the Treasury officials. We do not attribute to them moral guilt greater than that of bute to them moral guilt greater than that of many other men. But their moral and legal senses have become twisted. They are in an abnormal condition. There are some points they can give up, but their cotton stealing they must have.

One of these cotton cases has been recently submitted to Mr. Charles O'Conor, with a request for his opinion on the legality of the seizure. And Mr. O'Conor has given an opinion to the effect that the seizure was wholly unwar rantable, and that there is no authority in law for the disposition intended to be made of the property. Mr. O'Conor's opinion shows the property. Mr. O'Conor's opinion shows the same clearness and force which always distinguish the productions of that gentleman, acknowledged on all hands to be facile princeps of the New York bar. Mr. James T. Brady has signified, over his name, his agreement with Mr. O'Conor's conclusions and arguments; and Judge Pierrepont and Mr. William M. Evarts, lawyers of acknowledged ability, widely different meaning the Control of the Contro ing from Mr. O'Conor in political views, agree with him in his argument and its conclusions. The statute provides that it shall be lawful for the agents appointed by the Treasury for the purpose "to receive and collect all abandoned

or captured property."
The term: "captured property" already had its meaning, and received no new one.

The term "abandoned property" was a new term, and the thing covered by it was a new thing. And Congress provided that property should be regarded as "abandoned" when the lawful owner thereof should be "voluntarily

absent therefrom, and engaged, either in arms or otherwise, in aiding or encouraging the Re-These Treasury agent acts provided that the property referred to might be received or collected by the agents, and "appropriated to public use on due appraisement, or forwarded" to a place of sale. The sales were to be at public auction, and the proceeds paid into the United States Treasury. After all expenses of seizure and subsequent charges are paid from those pro-ceeds, the balance may possibly, at some distant time, reach the hands of the lawful owner.

The laws passed by Congress on the subject of these seizures were, in their nature, temporary, and operative only until the suppression of the Rebellion. As has been already stated, the statute provides that property shall be regarded as "abandoned" when the lawful owner thereof shall be voluntarily absent therefrom, and engaged, either in arms or otherwise, in aiding encouraging the Rebellion. It will puzzle most men to understand how the owner of property can be engaged in aiding or encouraging the Rebellion after it is at an end. Though the statute itself mentions no point of time when these seizures are to cease, it is plain they are not to last forever. And no other limitation can be possible than that already stated—the end of the

war, of actual hostilities.

These cases cannot be deemed cases of "cap tured" property, for captures can be made only during actual war by the naval and military forces of the United States, not by Treasury

agents in time of peace.

Moreover, one of the acts provides for applications to the Court of Claims for relief against wrongs done by these seizures. But these applications are to be presented only within two years 'after the suppression of the Rebellion." Plainly no acts to be refleved against are to be committed after that suppression.

Through the entire course of his argument Mr. O'Conor onsera his opinion on the construc-tion of the statute. It he were siting on the bench he would probably decide that the sta-tute itself had no validity. And most good law-yers would probably agree with him. All of these statutes, we presume, were, by the Congressmen of the period, saddled on the

back of that poor scapegoat, "War Powers, The idea seems to have been that, once granting that the mee in arms against the Government were allen enen ies, you also deprived them of all right to hold their own property. But on all sound principles of the laws of war, as laid down by the best authorities, the property of citizens and of allen enemies, as far as powers" are concerned, stands in precisely the ame position, equally good and equally bad.

Property on land can be seized and used in any manner, when it is necessary for actual war operations of armies or naval torces, and not otherwise; and this, whether belonging to friend or foe. And the law is the same for both cases, Property on land of alion enemies is protected in the same manner and to the same extent as

that of citizens. No case coming under "War Powers" can exist after the war is ended. The reasonings in support of all thes Treasury agent proceedings would not command an instant's con-ideration were it not that they are urged by men in high places. Mr. O'Conor, in his opinion, has carefully confined himself to a course of reasoning which he might safely use before men filled with the prejudices of rabid Republicanism. Even Charles Sumner, if he were a judge, would be compelled to heed them. Mr. O'Conor gives an opinion which he thinks can be successfully maintained before present judges. Were he a judge himself, he would probably decline to hear counsel on either

## SPECIAL NOTICES.

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3 29 21\*

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A Special Meeting of the Stockholders of the Royal Petroleum Company will be held at the office of the Company No. 23; S. THIRD Street, Philadelphia, Pa. on MONDAY, the 2d day of April, 1886 at 12 o'clock noon, to act upon a proposition to reduce the Capital Stock to two hundred thousand dollars.

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John Gallagher JE, Secretary. 37 wfm 11t

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Every stockholder is requested to be present.
3 20 2t\*
C. E. HARRIS, Secretary.

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NOTICE.—To the Constables of the City of Philadelphia — The Constables of the various Warts of the City of Philadelphia — The Constables of the various Warts of the City are hereby not fiest to appear in Court on the FIRST MONDAY IN APRIL. and make their return, according to law of such persons in their Wards who sell Liquor without license, and be prepared to go at once before the Grand Jury as witnesses upon indictments to be then sent in against said offenders.

WILLIAM B. MANN,
3 27 5t

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